

Today's News - Thursday, May 20, 2010

- Bernstein pays tribute to Arakawa who "explored ideas about mortality by creating buildings meant to stop aging and preclude death."
- Big plans for a big slice of Baltimore's waterfront (and nary a NIMBY in sight).
- Yesterday it was Russians coming to the aid of Caracas; today, Japan lends a hand in India's vision for an urban future
- - "though urbanization is not without detractors."
- Cheers for plans to revamp London's National Theatre so the best Thames views are no longer marred by garbage bins.
- Bellamy bemoans parking lots leaving Winnipeg's downtown "resembling the toothless grin of hockey Hall of Famer" (never mind the historic buildings being demolished to make way).
- Appelbaum takes on LEED: it's time "to make sure that a green building doesn't go gray after its grand opening."
- Rapid response puts an end to plans to pink up Hejduk's Kreuzberg Tower in Berlin.
- On a more sober note, NTHP issues its 2010 America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places annual list (great presentations).
- Russell roams around remade Lincoln Center: DS+R "have done the impossible…the changes have transformed the tired bombast of the architectural ensemble" - it's "almost hip."
- An impressive team behind NYC's Museum for African Art extends Manhattan's Museum Mile.
- Bilbao opens its newest architectural landmark: "an imposing new cultural center" by Starck.
- Hawthorne comments on the all the comments he's getting re: his review of Gehry's Ruvo Center.
- Kennicott gives thumbs-up and down to architects' endeavors in stage design (great slide show).
- Q&A with Gilabert and her plans for Storefront for Art and Architecture: "I want to introduce more characters into the contemporary discussion - for highly productive disagreements."
- Chen offers a most amusing report from the Pritzker fete for SANAA on Ellis Island (who wasn't there - besides us?!?).
- Booth on 2010 RIBA architecture awards: "as a measure of the recession's impact, the major museums and airports that graced the list in recent years are few" (we really like the bus driver's loo).
- Lisbon Architecture Triennale's competition names 30 finalists from around the world.
- Call for entries: AILA's Seachange 2030+ International Urban Sea Level Rise Ideas Competition for Sydney Harbor.

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Obituary: Arakawa, Whose Art Tried to Halt Aging, 73: ...with his wife, Madeline Gins, explored ideas about mortality by creating buildings meant to stop aging and preclude death...explored their philosophy, which they called Reversible Destiny... By Fred A. Bernstein [slide show] - New York Times

Baltimore Blues: New development aims to knit former industrial site into thriving waterfront...Its size alone is unprecedented in Baltimore, a 52-acre site...Perhaps the most unusual thing about Westport Waterfront is its scant opposition. -- Parameter; Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn; Field Operations [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

India's Vision For An Urban Future: City planning has come to the fore, with help from Japanese companies, though urbanization is not without detractors. - Forbes

The South Bank must lose this rubbish façade: Now that the river path has been opened up, the 12 million pedestrians who flow along it each year can't fail to wonder why the best Thames views are reserved for some bins. This could soon change...National Theatre innovations will be subtle. By Richard Godwin -- Denys Lasdun (1976); Haworth Tompkins - Evening Standard (UK)

Blot on downtown landscape: Parking lots are asphalt deserts that create pedestrian dead zones: Winnipeg's long history of building demolition to make way for open parking lots has left our downtown resembling the toothless grin of hockey Hall of Famer. By Brent Bellamy/Number Ten Architectural Group- Winnipeg Free Press (Canada)

Don't LEED Us Astray: ...plenty of buildings that boast of being "built to LEED standards" might then leak excessive carbon once in operation...the government needs to make sure that a green building doesn't go gray after its grand opening. By Alec Appelbaum - New York Times

Hands Off Hejduk: Rapid response stops plans to alter John Hejduk's Kreuzberg Tower: Berlin developer probably didn't know what was in store when he decided to remove a few balconies and repaint his building pink...now proceeding with a complete restoration... By Julie V. Iovine [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

2010 America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places annual list -- Olmsted/Fanning & Shaw (1932); George Dearing (1886) [images] - National Trust for Historic Preservation

Revson Fountain, Batwing Restaurant Spruce Up Lincoln Center: Diller, Scofidio & Renfro have done the impossible. They have made the overbearing culture palaces at New York's Lincoln Center seem engaging, almost hip...the changes have transformed the tired bombast of the architectural ensemble...now they seem to stand tall and throw their shoulders back. By James S. Russell- Bloomberg News

Stern's Museum for African Art Set to Open in 2011: ...at Fifth Avenue and 110th Street and overlooking Central Park, will link Manhattan's famed Museum Mile to Harlem...museum will occupy the lower floors of a 19-story residential tower. -- Robert A.M. Stern; G TECTS Architecture; SLCE Architects; Studio SUMO; Andre Kikoski [slide show] - Architectural Record

Bilbao inaugurates new architectural landmark: ...an imposing new cultural centre...Alhondiga Bilbao...on the site of a converted wine warehouse...took eight years to build for a cost of €75 million (\$92.5 million). -- Philippe Starck [image]- AFP

Frank Gehry, polarizing as ever: In response to my review of the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health...e-mailers were again out in force, and again showing evidence of dramatically split opinion. (The comments are also piling up...) By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times

Buttressing aging art forms: Santiago Calatrava and Herzog & de Meuron design for the stage: Architects working in the theater is not unheard of...But it is a rarity for rich and famous architects...who works in a jet-set world of big budgets and tight schedules, to spend serious time designing for the ephemeral forms of theater, dance or opera. By Philip Kennicott [slide show]- Washington Post

Newsmaker: Eva Franch i Gilabert: "I want to introduce more characters into the contemporary discussion - for highly productive disagreements...For me, Storefront for Art and Architecture brings together pedagogical inquiry and architectural practice." -- OOAA (office of architectural affairs)- Architectural Record

Architects at Play, Dangling Medals: Architecture's luminaries gathered at Ellis Island to bestow their version of the Nobel, the Tony, the Oscar... guests heading to the ceremony and dinner that awarded this year's Pritzker Prize...to Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa of Sanaa were greeted by an altogether different sign of the times: a line leading to airport-like security. By Aric Chen- New York Times

Schools, museums and public loo: 2010 RIBA architecture awards unveiled: ...as a measure of the recession's impact, the major museums and airports that graced the list in recent years are few. By Robert Booth -- Zaha Hadid; David Chipperfield; Rogers Stirk Harbour; Carmody Groarke; Rick Mather; Hudson Architects; Julian Cowie; dRMM; Feilden Clegg Bradley; Heatherwick Studio; Tonkin Liu; NORD; Patel Taylor; Caruso St John; Theis and Khan [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

Lisbon Architecture Triennale's A House in Luanda: Patio and Pavilion International Competition: 30 finalists selected from 588 proposals from 44 countries.- Lisbon Architecture Triennale

Call for entries: Seachange 2030+ International Urban Sea Level Rise Ideas Competition for Sydney Harbor; deadline: June 30- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)

An Open Letter to Susan Szenasy re: Frank Gehry: Susan, I love and admire you. But I think you are wrong... By Fred Bernstein- ArchNewsNow



Under construction: Gehry Partners: New World Symphony, Miami, Florida

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